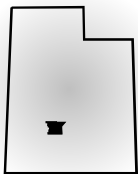


County Trends



Piute

June 2003

A Local Economic Perspective

From bust to boom?

Piute County's economy seems to have gone from bust to boom in just a few short months. Only a recalcitrant unemployment rate keeps the labor market from appearing quite robust.

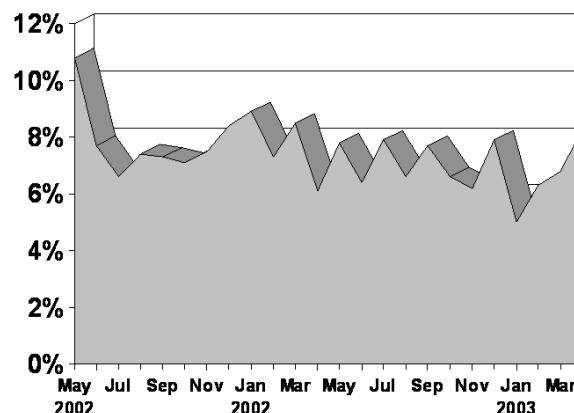
Jobs on the Upswing

Piute's a small county—not just in land mass—but in population and all the attributes associated with a small county. That means that small numeric changes often result in large variations in the rate of growth. This keeps the county's economic indicators on a virtual rollercoaster of economic viability.

The current indicators are no exception. The last time we looked at nonfarm job growth in Piute County, it wasn't growth at all. In September 2002, the county displayed a 6-percent decrease in nonagricultural employment. And, things had been worse. In May, job losses bottomed out at 14 percent.

However, the final quarter of 2002 presented quite a different picture. Overall, fourth quarter employment was up 6 percent and was trending upward. Between December 2001 and December 2002, employment grew by a whopping 8 percent (20 jobs).

Seasonally Adjusted Piute County Unemployment Rates

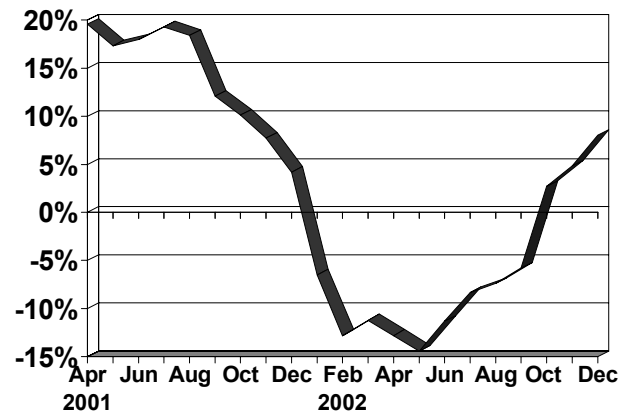


Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.





Year-Over Change in Piute County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

To the Point

Piute County's unemployment rate remains stubbornly high despite the best efforts of strong employment growth to push it down. However, the expansion in jobs as well as sales point to a healthy Piute County economy.

A large number of these new positions were created in healthcare (which includes nursing homes). Construction, accommodations/food services, and government also added several new positions.

On the other hand, retail trade and transportation dropped a number of positions.

With this nice spurt in new employment, one might expect that joblessness would creep down. Not so. Although still in the range it has fluctuated in for the past year, Piute County's unemployment rate remains stubbornly high. The county's April 2003 job rate reached 8.3 percent. That measures significantly above both the state (5.3 percent) and national rates (6.0 percent).

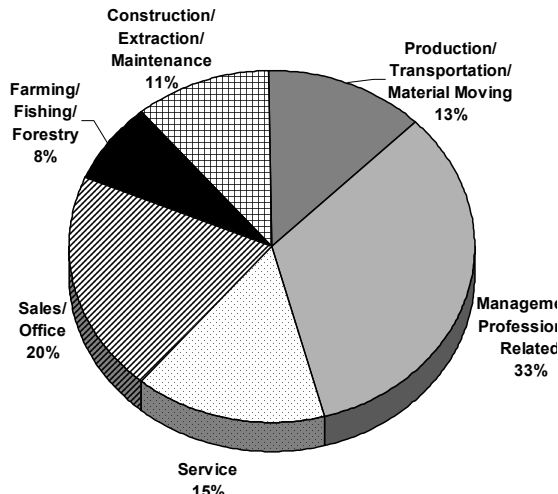
Since many Piute County workers commute and since joblessness is measured by a person's home rather than his workplace, such seeming contradictions can occur. Almost one-third of Piute County's workforce is employed outside of Piute County. Diminished job opportunities in neighboring counties may contribute to higher unemployment despite Piute County's increasing employment.

Sales Still Perking

The county continues to improve its sales performance. Between the fourth quarters of 2001 and 2002, Piute County's gross taxable sales increased by

Piute County 2000 Labor Force Occupations

3



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.



almost 21 percent. In fact, 2002 experienced a steady increase in the rate of sales growth.

This fine gain is not limited to one industry. Services, retail trade, and wholesale trade all shared in this robust expansion.

Down the Road

Despite high unemployment, Piute County's economy is certainly expanding based on other available indicators. Hopefully, it will be able to sustain this expansion although the national economy appears to have weakened.

Lecia Parks Langston, Regional Economist
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Quick Facts

April 2003

Unemployment Rate

Piute County	8.3%
Utah	5.3%
U.S.	6.0%

Dec 2002 Change from Previous Year

Job Growth

Piute County	8.0%
Utah	0.2%
U.S.	-0.2%

4th Qtr 2002 Change from Previous Year

Sales

Piute County	20.5%
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Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,
 Bureau of Labor Statistics,
 Utah Tax Commission.

For more economic information about Piute County see:
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/regions/county.asp>

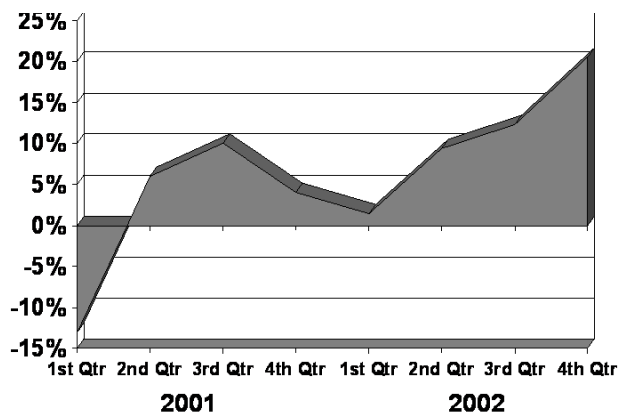
State of Utah

Utah Department of Workforce Services

140 East 300 South
PO Box 45249
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0249

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Year-Over Change in Piute County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.



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03-13WP-0603

Equal Opportunity Employment Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128



What's Up?

- New officers have been elected for the Marysville Chamber of Commerce and plans for activities in the community have been scheduled. Among the plans are the Utah Old Time Fiddlers Concert May 24, horse races sponsored by the Fireman's Club on August 23, and a new town holiday, Marysville Mining Days, September 12-14. Mining Days will be held in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain ATV Jamboree headquartered in Richfield. The group is also working on a welcome sign for the town listing area business.

For more economic events, see:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/western/piute/piuteee.pdf>